

Questions and Answers Well Contractor License

What does a water well contractor license allow you to do?

With a Florida Water Well contractor's License you may own your own well drilling business, operate a water well drilling business, obtain the necessary permits, and hire drillers.

Where can I get a State of Florida Water Well Contractor License?

Water Well Contractor Licenses are issued by the five water management districts (WMD):

South Florida WMD in West Palm Beach,
St. Johns River WMD in Palatka,
Southwest Florida WMD in Brooksville,
Suwannee River WMD in Live Oak, and the
Northwest Florida WMD located in Havana, Florida.

What qualifications do I need to become a licensed water well contractor?

1. A water well contractor license applicant must be at least 18 years old,
2. have at least two years experience constructing, repairing or abandoning water wells as a major activity,
3. provide evidence of the work experience by submitting a letter attesting to the applicant's experience from three of the following persons: a water well contractor, a well driller, a water well parts and equipment vendor, or a well inspector employed by a government agency;
4. submit a list of at least ten water wells that the applicant has constructed, repaired, or abandoned within the preceding 5 years. Of these wells, at least seven must have been constructed, as defined in s. 373.303(2), by the applicant. The list shall also include: the name and address of the owner or owners of each well and the location, primary use, and approximate depth, and diameter of each well that the applicant has constructed.
5. And the applicant needs 12 Continuing Education credits from the Florida Water Well Administrator. There are two types of credits – Rules/Regulation and Safety/Business. Please note that 6 out of the 12 credits must be in Rules/Regulations.

How do I get 12 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)?

Classes are held all over Florida. You can get all the information concerning CEUs by contacting the Florida Water Well Administrator (FWWA) at 325 John Knox Road, L-103 Tallahassee, FL 32303. Phone: (850) 205-5641. The website showing class

offerings and schedules is: www.flwwceu.org Please note that CEUs are only valid for a maximum of two years.

How do I get a water well contractor license application?

Contact the nearest Water Management District and ask for the State of Florida Water Well Contractor License Application form and the license packet. Inside the packet you will find the application form and all the rules and regulations that you'll need to study for the exam. Complete the application and submit it with the NON-REFUNDABLE LICENSE APPLICATION FEE, the list of ten wells that you've worked on, three letters attesting to your well drilling experience, and a photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of the 12 Continuing Education Units issued by the Florida Water Well Administrator. Please remember to sign the application. Once you submit the application, District staff will verify your information then staff will contact you and schedule a time for you to take the test.

I'm licensed in another state and I just moved to Florida. May I transfer my license?

No, the State of Florida does not have any reciprocal arrangements with other states concerning water well contractor licensing. In order to get your State of Florida Water Well Contractor License you will need to submit the application along with the fee, the three letters attesting to your experience, the list of wells, and proof of the required 12 Continuing Education Units.

Do I need a separate state water well contractor's license for each water management district I want to work in?

No. You obtain your water well contractor's license and renew it in the district in which your principle business is located. Your State of Florida Water Well Contractor License will be accepted statewide.

I don't speak or read English well. Can I get the rules, the application and the test in another language?

No. The rules, application and the test are only in English. However, you may bring a translator with you when you take the test.

How much is the Water Well Contractor's Application Fee?

Currently there is a \$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE in the South Florida Water Management District, which must be included with your application. Make the check or money order payable to: South Florida Water Management District. **DO NOT SEND CASH!**

When can I take the test?

The test will be scheduled after the complete application has been received and all the information in the application has been reviewed by District staff. If everything is complete and satisfactory then staff will contact you and schedule a test date, time and location when the license exam will be given. After you successfully complete the test (70% or above is a passing score) you will be issued a State of Florida Water Well Contractor's License and Certificate.

What's on the license exam?

The test is 150 questions – mostly multiple choice, some true and false and some fill-in-the-blank questions. The exam covers rules, regulations, penalties for not following the rules and regulations, drilling methods, business and safety practices.

Is it an open book test?

No. *This is not an open book test.*

Can I get a copy of the test to study?

No.

What happens if I don't pass the license exam?

You may retake the exam. You will have a total of three chances to pass the test.

Is a water well contractor's license required if I only drill monitor wells?

Yes, monitoring wells fall under the definition of "wells", therefore, the same rules and regulations apply.

Can a company hold the water well contractor license?

No. A well contractor license is issued to one specific individual person who has the experience and education and who has passed the exam, not the company. The company didn't drill the wells, take the classes and pass the test, the human being did, so the license goes to the human being, not the company.

When does a water well contractor license expire?

All State of Florida Water Well Contractor Licenses expire on July 31 of every odd numbered year.

What do I need to do to renew my license?

You will need 12 CEUs in order to renew your license. Your water management district will send you a renewal notice. Please fill it out and send it back with proof of your CEUs and the renewal fee. The district will then send you a new license.

What study guides are available for the water well contractor's license exam?

A thorough knowledge of the enclosed Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code Chapter 40E-3, Department on Environmental Protection Chapters, Water Well Contractors' Disciplinary Guidelines, and Citations Dictionary are needed to pass the examination. **This information is included in the water well contractor license application package.** General knowledge and experience is also necessary to operate legally as a water well contractor in the State of Florida.

EXCELLENT BOOKS FOR STUDY ON DRILLING PROCEDURES:

(They are not required but they offer good background information.)

Groundwater and Wells by Fletcher G. Driscoll, Johnson Division (second edition)

This is available from the National Groundwater Association (NGWA)

601 Dempsey Road

Westerville, OH 43081-8978

(800) 551-7379 website: www.ngwa.org

This book has also been located at www.amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble at www.bn.com. You might also check your local library for this book.

Groundwater & Wells, Third Edition edited by Robert Sterrett, Ph.D., PG Johnson Division is an updated version of the classic *Groundwater and Wells*

Drilling: The Manual of Methods, Applications, and Management by the Australian Drilling Industry Training Co.

This book can be found on www.bn.com, www.crcpress.com, and www.amazon.com.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please feel free to contact Ms. Ann Marie Superchi at 561-682-6929.